

The Siamese Exhibits

AT

The World's Columbian
Exposition

Chicago

1893

BY

Frederic Mayer

Member of the Board of Judges

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ROYAL SIAMESE
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World's Columbian
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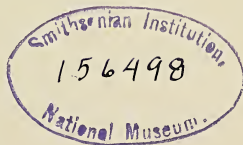
Chicago

1893

PHRA SURIYA NUVATR
Royal Siamese Commissioner

HON. ISAAC TOWNSEND SMITH
Consul General
Assistant Commissioner

LUANG NEPHAT KULAPHONGS
Assistant Royal Siamese Commissioner



SIAM

AND

The Siamese Exhibits at the World's Fair.

The Kingdom of Siam is an extensive country in the south-east of Asia. It extends, approximately, from the 4th to the 22nd degree of North latitude, and from the 96th to the 109th degree of East longitude. It contains an area of about 250,000 square miles.

Siam is bounded on the north and west by the Shan States, Burmah and the Bay of Bengal; on the east by Annam and Cambodia; and on the south by the Gulf of Siam and the Malayan States.

Government.—The Government is an absolute and hereditary monarchy, the sovereign being, however, invested with the power of appointing his successor. The legislative power is exercised by a Council of Ministers presided over by the King. There is, in addition, a Council of State, consisting of the Ministers and other high functionaries, about twenty in number, appointed by the King, and of some Princes of the Royal House.

Since the year 1781 Bangkok has been the capital of the kingdom; it is also the seat of the Government.

Religion.—The prevailing religion is Buddhism, but perfect freedom is allowed to all other creeds, and Christian Missionaries in Siam are granted absolute liberty and protection.

Finances.—The position of the kingdom from a financial point of view is exceedingly healthy. The country has no public debt. The king's income, estimated a few years ago at \$10,000,000 per annum, is derived chiefly from land taxes, spirits, opium, tin mines, fisheries, etc. The expenditure is much less than the revenue.

Population.—The population is estimated in round figures at 12,000,000.

Army and Navy.—Siam has a standing army and also a militia. Every male inhabitant above the age of 21 years is liable to serve the State for three months each year. Certain persons are exempt from military service. The Siamese navy consists of steam corvettes and gun-boats, officered in most cases by Europeans.

Railways and Progress.—The future of Siam depends greatly upon the progress of railway enterprise and the natural exploration of the country which will result from it. Many schemes for railroads have been advocated and commissioners have been appointed by the

government to make surveys. The pioneer line is from Bangkok, the capital, to Patriew, with a branch line to Packnam at the mouth of the Menam, the Piræus of Siam. In 1891 the Borapah Railway Company was formed in Bangkok and shortly afterwards work was started. The progress of railroads depends very much upon the cost of material in Europe and other markets. So far the roads have been built inexpensively and are sure to pay their way. Siam itself abounds in all the necessary ore for the manufacture of railway material, in mines of iron, lead, coal, as well as gold, silver, precious stones and valuable minerals, which are abundant, but railroads are an absolute necessity for working them. Once started, the erection of iron foundries, rolling mills, etc., will rapidly follow. In some places coal and iron are found in large quantities in close proximity to one another. The government has financed one railroad from the treasury rather than allow foreign capital to get control of the country; this road will run from Bangkok to Khorat. Siam is rich in its soil and productions, possessed of valuable mines and gums, spices and pepper, the best and cheapest rice and sugar, and the land is absolutely encumbered with the most luscious fruit in the world. Siam is the largest and richest piece of the earth's surface remaining in the possession of a race not strong enough to defend it but sufficiently civilized and willing to develop it.

The development of the country is being carried on in a most political manner. Concessions of gold, silver, copper, ruby, sapphire and other mines are being granted with the distinct provision that work upon them shall begin almost at once. The government of Siam is most anxious to favor foreign enterprise and has expressed itself willing to make favorable terms to American and European syndicates. Canals have been planned out and are being dug, roads are progressing, houses of modern styles are constantly being built and radical changes are taking place in the internal government of the country. The cultivation of tobacco and cereals is being advanced. Under the enlightened policy of the actual ruler mighty changes in the condition of the people of Siam have taken place. The innovations which have been wrought within the last few years are indicative of the rate of progress likely in the future. The post and telegraph system throughout the country has been extended; telephone service is in active use; the passenger and postal services are being effected by large and new steamers; tram-car lines and electric cars have been extended; new roads built, bridges erected, and as Siam is never visited by the scourges so common elsewhere, as typhoons, seasons of droughts, etc., there is every indication of prosperity and happiness for the great kingdom.

Siam, the gold and gem producing place of the earth, the country where cattle and rice can be raised in infinite quantity and upon whose soil grows half of the teak of the world, affords many inducements for the establishment of friendly intercourse both with respect to export and import trade on account of its beautiful situation between the great emporiums of commerce. It possesses not only an excellent harbor of refuge but the only one in existence between China and Singapore; it is the real and only key to the gates which enclose southern China. The existing treaties entitle nations to the enjoyment of privileges at once a boon to these nations and no less conducive to the welfare of the Siamese. In Siam there exists no prejudice whatever against any European or other nation. The king, his ministers and his countrymen, are most desirous to see Americans obtain concessions and trade with the Siamese. Not only will concessions be freely granted them but every possible advantage will be accorded to American citizens.

It is with this object in view that the Siamese have, under the able direction of Commissioner General Mr. Phra Suriya, made remarkable exhibits at the World's Fair. Mr. Phra Suriya and his wife, Mrs. Phra Suriya, who has entire charge of the valuable display of the work of Siamese women, have spared neither time, trouble nor expense in making the exhibition of Siamese produce one of the most interesting sights in the whole Exposition.

Bangkok.—It may not be uninteresting to say a few words about Bangkok, the capital of Siam, the seat of the government and the most important city from a commercial point of view.

Bangkok is situated on both sides of the river Menam (mother of waters—sometimes designated as the Chow Phya) and is about 25 miles from the bar. On the east side of the river are the citadel, palaces, and other important residences; all the territory within the walls is generally looked upon as the city. Bangkok has changed so rapidly within the last decade that it would hardly be recognized by a resident of years gone by. An immense telegraph and post office has been erected; the electric light has been introduced; tram-cars run in all directions; palaces and large wholesale houses have arisen in every quarter of the city. Bangkok has its business quarters like Chicago and the large cities of America; it has also its residences and boulevards; with its beautiful river it has become one of the most delightful and prosperous places in the East. Of nature's own designing the Menam forms one of the finest water highways in the world, and has at all times a multitude of steamers, ships and junks, with innumerable local

craft, steam launches, house-boats and rua-changs (ferry boats) passing to and fro upon its surface, or anchored to its bed.

The trade of Bangkok has increased enormously during the past few years. The tables given below will show to what extent foreign goods have made their way in Siam. The total amounts of the import and export of merchandise from the port of Bangkok for 1892 are as follows :

Exports	\$10,084,077
Imports	9,425,192
Excess of Exports over Imports (1892).....	<u>\$658,885</u>

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

White Shirlings.....	\$448,767	Gunney Bags.....	\$313,218
Gray Shirlings.....	231,939	Tea	101,569
Colored Piece Goods.....	129,149	Salt Garlic	117,402
Miscellaneous Piece G'ds	462,877	Matches.....	141,895
Chowls.....	611,632	Liquors.....	127,705
White Twist.....	107,815	Kerosene Oil.....	363,647
Colored Twist.....	124,673	Lamp Oil.....	114,068
Hardware	593,878	Betel-Nut.....	108,650
Earthenware.....	115,687	Sugar	354,080
Brass and Copperware.....	143,266	Cocanuts.....	198,005
Machinery.....	137,542	Treasure.....	448,149
Jewelry.....	342,229	Other Goods.....	917,942
Ship Chandlery.....	118,082	Provisions and articles for	
Silk Piece Goods.....	264,938	personal use.....	189,105
Opium	257,500	<i>Etc., Etc., Etc.</i>	

EXPORTS.

Rice.....	\$6,897,073	Teelseeds.....	\$168,059
Broken Rice.....	47,457	Teak Planks.....	112,834
Best Cardamum.....	14,941	Teak Timber	343,844
Plahaang	64,690	Platoo Fish.....	150,105
Dried Mussels.....	162,974	Salt Fish.....	122,574
Buffalo Horns	56,724	Tin	65,751
Buffalo Hides.....	145,487	Bullocks.....	199,198
Gum Benjamin.....	32,243	Sundries.....	296,731
Deer Hides, Fine.....	8,499	<i>Etc., Etc., Etc.</i>	
Pepper	388,958		

Siam at the World's Fair.

Before entering into a detailed account of the exhibits, it should be mentioned that it is thanks to His Excellency, Phya Surasakdi Montri, Minister of Agriculture in Siam and residing in Bangkok, that such remarkable displays are made. He was entrusted with the sole care of collecting representative produce and manufactured goods, and of classifying and forwarding the same to Chicago. A visit to the different buildings will show how successful he has been in his undertaking.

IN THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING:

Situated in a prominent position in the north-west corner of the Agricultural Building stands the white and gold pavilion of the remarkable Siamese nation. The exterior decoration of the pavilion is beautiful; the combination of colors, the appropriate manner in which the national flag is mingled to the stars and stripes of America, prove how much good taste has been shown by the royal commissioners in the surroundings and details of a very worthy exhibit. The architectural arrangements are unique, and Siam has one of the prettiest buildings in the Palace of Agriculture. There is no ceiling to the pavilion, and as a consequence during the warm months of summer there is plenty of cool air, most refreshing to the numerous visitors who crowd to see the marvelous exhibit made by a far-off people of whom the American nation had hitherto heard so little. The interior of the archways that encircle the construction are profusely decorated with heads of deer, reproductions in wood, with the original horns, the execution and mounting having been done in Siam.

The most remarkable products displayed are coffee, starch, bees-wax, ginger, seeds, roots, nutmeg, spices, sugar, saffron, tobacco, hemp, silk, cotton, pastry, rice, fruit, pepper, cardamoms, biscuits, jams, jellies, preserved meats and fish, etc.

It will be seen that with such a long and important list of the products from the kingdom of Siam that trading with this country could and should be vastly improved. At present the import and export trades are very limited in comparison to what they might be, considering the population of the Siamese dominion. The duty on all imports being only 3 per cent. ad valorem, the list of imports should be greatly increased.

Bangkok and its immediate neighborhood afford, at the present day, a ready market for a by no means meager supply of American and European stuffs. Great profit accrues on the original valuation of goods, and merchants are able to pocket immense profits after the freight, insurance and local dues are deducted from the price current at Bangkok, which city has become the seat of a thriving commerce. It cannot be denied that the exhibition made of Siamese produce in Chicago, offers a most favorable opportunity for the laying of a firm foundation for commercial intercourse with a nation hitherto unknown, an intercourse which would inevitably open a new market for a considerable number of manufactories of the United States of America. The Siamese need constant supplies of every imaginable article requisite for both the luxury and comfort of a vast empire. Yielding, as does the interior of Siam, a vast supply of rice, pepper, teak wood, and doing an immense trade with the Chinese, it seems strange that Americans should not have turned their attention heretofore to the wide and profitable field open in Siam to their capital and energy. In the northern provinces the mulberry tree is cultivated to advantage, and Siamese silk has, within a few years, been made to rival the produce of the China markets.

Agricultural implements from the different countries of Europe have been tried on Siamese soil, but on account of their heavy make and peculiar construction, are ill adapted to the soft clay soil of a rich growing land. American implements, especially those of light construction, are considered best suited for such soil ; and there is a large opening for them. The Siamese government offers a good reward for the invention of a reaping machine that can be made successfully to cut rice on the soft soil, and particularly at a time when the rice fields are under water from the inundation of the rivers. The fertility of the Siamese soil is so active that it will permit of two crops of rice on the same piece of ground in the space of only a few months, if sufficient labor can be obtained to cut the first crop in good time, that is to say, before the annual inundation commences. When this is done the soil is plowed and rice sown a second time ; the success of the second crop, however, greatly depends upon the condition of the water on the fields. If the water does not recede within a certain length of time the rice becomes ripe, and the farmer is compelled to go through the hardship of wading through deep water in order to cut the rice before it either gets over-ripe or the stalks grow so long that the weight of the grains make them fall confusedly on top of one another when the water withdraws. The peculiar nature of the rice

plant in Siam is such that, however rapidly the water may rise on the fields, the growth of the plants invariably keeps pace with it, struggling to maintain its grains always above the surface of the water. Thus, in certain parts of the low-land, the stalks very often grow to a length of more than six feet. In such cases all the reaping has to be done in punts or boats, involving much more time and labor than would otherwise be required. Those who have not sufficient means at their command have to abandon the crop altogether.

The successful invention of a reaping machine, such as mentioned above, would be a great boon to the country, and the inventor would consequently deserve a very high reward.

Agricultural implements, wood-working tools, and all kinds of machinery and steam engines are destined to form the essential articles of Siamese imports from the United States.

The coffee plant, which flourishes in all luxuriance, has, on inland plantations, well irrigated by the Menam, arrived at great perfection. In the Agricultural building samples of coffee are to be seen. Indigo and cotton are as successfully raised as coffee. Few countries are richer than Siam as regards produce, suited for and sought after in European markets, and few countries afford a wider field for the acquisition of wealth, as well as of useful and agreeable knowledge. The facilities now afforded to enterprise are very great, and it would be certainly lamentable if European powers seized such an advantageous opportunity to the detriment of enterprising Americans. The wild beasts of the forest supply many valuable skins, and a considerable quantity of the purest ivory. The samples of the latter produce, shown in the Manufactures building, give the visitor a very good idea of the magnificent pieces of ivory that are to be found in Siam. The trees yield a great variety of gums, spices and dyes; the fields and banks of the rivers are abundant in rice, pepper, tobacco, sugar, spices. The tobacco, especially, is of excellent quality, some being mild and some very strong. Samples of the cigars made are shown in different colors; they are covered with bark and leaves, and vary in hues from red, pink and green, to white, black and yellow. Other noticeable exhibits in the agricultural building are hemp, silk and cotton in raw and domesticated condition. As to rice, it is shown in over a score of large cases, there being over one hundred different samples of this particular produce. Pastry and cakes of all kinds, biscuits, sweet arrowroot, spiced and highly flavored, are also to be seen. Fruit has been brought over in large quantities, not in its natural condition, but by the aid of reproductions in wax, very well

executed. There is also a quantity of mint, urecca nuts, cardammon, cardammon bastard, dried mussels, cloves, white and black pepper, cinnamon, ginger, and different ingredients for vegetable soup. Two kinds of sugar are shown, the light and the dark. Beside these are lettuce and turnip seeds, castor beans, out of which castor and other oils are made, saffron, conserves, jams and jellies. But the exhibit in the Agricultural is not merely confined to the produce of the soil. The commissioners have also made a very complete display of all kinds of agricultural implements manufactured in Siam. Siamese plows, hoes, rakes, shovels, etc., are the object of continual inspection of American visitors interested in agriculture. Cooking utensils are in a very primitive condition in Siam, but as the diet of these people is entirely different to the menu of a Chicago restaurant, they are amply sufficient for the preparation of rice, vegetables, fish and other dishes with which the Siamese are nourished. There is a very good display of the national military instruments, such as sabers, which are very long and but slightly curved. Twenty-five species of fish are shown in the Siamese pavilion, where one can also admire the kingfisher bird for its bright blue and black plumage, used for decorating purposes. Siam supplies China with fish, the export trade in this direction being enormous, as fish are very plentiful in the Siamese waters.

IN THE MANUFACTURES AND LIBERAL ARTS BUILDING :

The pavilion in the Manufactures has somewhat the form of a pagoda, such as are to be seen on the banks of the Menam. These pagodas are of magnificent workmanship, some of those in Siam being a mosaic of the finest porcelain, inlaid with ivory, mother of pearl and gilt, and producing a perfectly dazzling effect. The pavilion in the Manufactures is a graceful construction, inlaid with variegated glass, and has an artistic and at the same time a very rich appearance. Siam, as is well known, contains many rich mines of different metals which have yet to be explored. Expeditions of scientific men who have been permitted to visit certain unexplored parts of the kingdom have been richly rewarded, both in the store of knowledge they accumulated, and the addition made to the various branches of science. Travelers to Siam have always been known to say, on their return, that they have never seen elephants of so large a size in any other

part of the globe. The magnificent pair of ivory tusks exhibited in Chicago are worth \$2,000 apiece ; they are unique in size and of a smooth and spotless white.

The Siamese are very adroit with ivory and they transform the precious substance into all sorts of useful little ornaments. Boxes of all sizes, vases, bowls, cigar and cigarette jars, ash stands, powder boxes, brushes, and a thousand other trinkets are to be seen chased in ivory, the work being finished in most beautiful and delicate fashion.

Siamese enamels are also of very fine quality, and prove that the wonderful little nation is making vast progress in this direction of art. The same remark becomes apparent when the visitor inspects the different samples of silverware and gilt displayed. There are some quaint vases in copper and gold, which present all the exterior appearance of the latter metal, but which cost but a moderate figure from the fact that they contain a fair amount of copper. There is already a demand for these vases, both in Europe and America, and as they are made cheaper in Siam and with better material than can possibly be procured elsewhere, the exports of these vases will certainly increase greatly, as will also those in inlaid work and the laquered. At present they are being greatly admired, as are also the curiously shaped utensils for cooking. There are also some fine samples of floating houses, miniature reproductions of those in Bangkok. They form a very interesting exhibit, for they permit visitors to gain a very fair idea of the manners and customs of a people who, by the curious construction of their abodes, are able to scrub and scour their houses every morning. There are also numerous photographs of costumes, large pieces of fine embroideries and rich tapestries illustrating native military subjects, and combats on elephants between the Burmese and the Siamese. The Siamese tapestries are remarkable for their beautiful coloring and the high artistic finish which is noticeable in the execution of animals and the costumes of the various warriors.

The postal arrangements in Siam are as perfect as the most fastidious citizen could desire. The postmaster-general has prepared a very complete display for the World's Fair. In this interesting exhibit are to be found the model of a letter-box as used in the country from 1883 to 1887 ; the improved model in use from 1887 to 1892 ; and the latest one in actual use. There are also Tonkgrahs or passports of the old and new kinds for post officials to present to high governors, sultans, etc. There are several bamboo envelopes as used formerly by country people. A plan of the general post office building is

shown, and also appropriate models demonstrating how letters are delivered in Bangkok by land and by water. There is a plan of Bangkok, and here and there are to be seen models of a Siamese postman on his beat, two Siamese letters from high Government authorities, the model of a boat for inland travel, as used by mail contractors; the Siamese postal flag, Siamese office seals and other models and plans of equal interest.

In this pavilion is an important collection of Siamese coin, both ancient and modern. Some of the small pieces of gold appear to be of a very queer shape when compared to the money used in America and European countries. The strange inscriptions they bear in the Siamese language are indicative of the reign of the king in whose time the piece of gold was minted.

IN THE WOMAN'S BUILDING :

The Siamese women are excellent housewives, remarkable needle women and embroiderers of great merit. They toil from sunrise to sunset, and at the age of 8 or 10 years have generally received a first-class education. It is no wonder then that the Siamese ladies should have seized the opportunity of making a display in Chicago well worthy of their country. They are represented at the World's Fair by Mrs. Phra Surya, to whose efforts and perfect good taste is due the very artistic display made by the women of Siam. Here, in a cozy little pavilion are to be seen pillows embroidered in real gold, a wonderful collection of embroidery in silver and silk, the cap of the young prince of Siam in real gold embroidery. There are also a number of plants reproduced in silk, silver and gold, and which produce a most happy effect and prove the high artistic taste and the great care bestowed upon them by their makers. In the little pavilion are also to be seen a quantity of native silk scarfs and samples of tapestry.

In the central section of the building are exhibited the full state robes of a Siamese prince, woven with real gold and silver thread, also a girdle that is usually worn with it, and which is studded with genuine sapphires and rubies. There are embroidered slipper tops, robes of noblemen, remarkable for the richness of the gold embroidery. The silk scarf worn by the queen of Siam is a pure work of art, and is bordered by gold fringe of great value. The exhibit also comprises the costumes of Siamese princes worn at Sokan ceremonies, all of which are decorated with rubies, emeralds and other precious stones. Part of a prince's full state costume is composed of arahams,

a magnificent apron, ornamented with real gold lace. In addition to this costume, the one worn by His Majesty, the king, during the ceremony of entering the priesthood, is in part also shown. the gold cap and lace veil being especially remarkable. Here and there in the cases are gold chains, miniature services, huge gold pins, tiny sabers, multi-colored table covers, tastefully and handsomely embroidered.

The jewelry display is a very remarkable one, and all the more interesting from the fact that it has been loaned by the queen of Siam, and not one of the bracelets or rings was made within the last two hundred years. Nowadays, the Siamese wear European jewelry, but at that epoch, when a taste for gold and precious stones was very marked, rings and bracelets were of abnormal size, especially those worn at religious and court ceremonies and at weddings. Most of the bracelets in this exhibit, which is worth altogether about \$58,000, are double bracelets, mounted with nine different gems of very large size, though, of course, not so perfectly cut as stones at the present day. The majority of these stones have been dug out of mines of the country. At first sight one would never suppose that some of the rings were possibly made two centuries ago, so neat is the mounting, so perfect the workmanship. The gems mostly in favor in Siam are the diamond, ruby, of which there exists several valuable mines, emerald, carbuncle, sapphire, moonstone, garnet and catseye. This particular exhibit is not only remarkable on account of its intrinsic value, but it is most interesting from a historical point of view, for it gives the student a very fair idea of the workmanship of the Siamese at a period when they were almost entirely unknown to European and American nations.

IN THE FORESTRY BUILDING :

Great efforts have been made within the last five years to preserve as far as possible the wealth of Siam in the teak and other forests, by a system of afforestation. Wherever practicable new forests have been created to replace those exhausted by the cutting of timber in them. The waste places in the country have thus been utilized. The future of Siam was to a large extent dependent upon this. Railways are already an important factor in deforestation through the demand they create for wood material for construction and other purposes.

Teak wood forms the most valuable exhibit, and at the same time the most interesting one to American visitors, in the Siamese forestry

exhibit. Everybody is not aware that teak is easily worked, that it is strong and most durable, and not liable to the attack of insects. European countries import large quantities of teak annually from Siam, especially England, where this particular kind of wood has been found to present better qualities in the construction of railway cars than any other hitherto employed. It is probable when the railway companies of the United States will have given teak wood a trial, that the exportation from Siam of this particular wood will be one of the great sources of commercial intercourse between the United States and the eastern country. Not only have the English constructors of ships and railway cars found that teak is stronger than any other wood, that it does not shrink, and that it is more durable, but the price at which they can obtain it has been one of the main factors of their utilizing it in immense quantities. It is capable of operating a revolution in the building of American cars, where it would undoubtedly prove far more advantageous than the woods now in use. The number of logs that are floated down the river Menam to Bangkok averages 50,000 per annum. It is exported to European countries for the purpose of building railway cars and also ships. The average exports from Bangkok, between 1883 and 1891, of teak planks, amounted to 9,142 tons, the value of which was \$222,031. The exports of teak timber amounted to 20,881 tons, representing a value of \$640,991.

In the centre of the pavilion, which is very neatly arranged, is a huge rectangular, highly-polished table, a master-piece of work of its kind. In different corners and on the shelves are to be seen quaint looking baskets with brass handles and locks. They are made in great quantities and all shapes, and are particular to the Siamese. Samples of ornamental woods for cabinet and furniture, such as pradoo, orange, white pradoo, keam, chingcham, and many other species of wood, are shown, as also ample displays of cordage, sulphur, bamboo, fans, jack-trees, etc.

The close grained woods from Siam are well worthy of inspection, as they will undoubtedly tend to bring about a revolution in the use of different woods for ornamental purposes, both in Europe and America. This forestry exhibition is one of the most instructive and interesting from a commercial point of view in Jackson Park. Great progress has been made within the last twenty years in the study of woods, those that until quite recently were being burned are now placed aside for a more dignified use. With the exception of teak, Siamese woods have not been appreciated to any very great extent.

When those interested in the purchase of wood will have seen the exhibit from Siam, they will conclude in a very short what a wonderful opening there undoubtedly exists for the importation of all ornamental woods from the southeast corner of Asia into this country.

IN THE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING:

The display made by Siam is, in the opinion of many visitors, one of the most interesting and curious in the building. Here we see samples of every means of conveyance employed in Siam, from the joss chairs with their red interior and exterior decorations, in which priests convey statues and sacred relics, to the square wooden bullock carriages used in Mandalay. These joss chairs, which resemble European sedan chairs of centuries gone by, are to be seen in green and blue decorations, as well as in red. The green, or high official chair, usually contains a cushioned seat, a pillow, a revolver, food and drink. The blue, or low official chair, is used for other ceremonies. The cart or carriage is drawn by two bullocks, has a large seat in front for the driver, and is used for the conveyance of almost everything both in town and jungle.

Among the different species of boats are the Koo La, and Ploo which are very wide and short, and are employed in peddling fruit on the Menam River at Bangkok; the Pitsan-u-Loke, for rough country travel; the Pet boat with oars, and a gondola shaped boat.

A very fine photograph of the king's state barge is exhibited, as is also a processional boat for noblemen who follow the king on all state ceremonies.

In addition to the above are a quantity of Siamese boats of different shapes and sizes, and timber raft, complete with house and men, perfect models of those to be seen at Bangkok floating down the river.

IN THE ETHNOLOGICAL BUILDING:

Siam is represented in this building by a most picturesque collection of costumes, worn by the different classes of its inhabitants, the military and the priests. In the exhibit of the games mostly in favor in all the countries of the world, Siam is represented by the Sua tok tong and the sua ghin guna, both popular throughout the country.

As will have been gathered from the above, the country of Siam, of whose wonderful produce so little has been heard and perhaps still less written, has sent very interesting exhibits to all the important buildings of the Exposition.

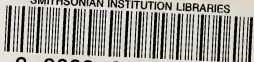
Siam is without doubt one of the richest countries in Asia. The king and the government are most anxious that Americans should know more about the country, and when an appeal was made some time back to many of the leading personages of the kingdom to contribute specimens of their finest work to be exhibited in Chicago, there was no hesitation. Women and men alike did all in their power to assist in making the exhibits not only representative of the manufactures and art of the country, but also worthy of their very best efforts. The king and queen have contributed most generously to the displays. The government took charge of and forwarded all of them to Chicago, where they have been distributed with perfect taste, and most intelligently, among the different buildings. When visitors see the wonderful produce of the country, and take due note of the magnificent opening proposed to Americans, not a doubt will remain as to the great future that lies in Siam for American manufactures and western energy. Every facility will be generously afforded to citizens of the United States whenever they visit the country, where the climate, by the way, is most agreeable in the months of December, January and February.

In conclusion, it may be safely said that had recent events not turned the eyes of the world to the kingdom of Siam, the beautiful exhibits made in Chicago would have sufficed to rivet the attention of all visitors to the World's Fair on a truly splendid display made by a far off country whose population of twelve million souls is now thirsting for progress, advanced civilization and peace.





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